THE HON'BLE MR JUSTICE D. APPA RAO

W.P.No.10004 of 2006

Dated : 23rd May 2006

Between:

Nalam Pattenna S/o. Ramarao and others

Petitioners

And

The Municipal Corporation of Kakinada

Rep. by its Commissioner, Kakinada and others.

THE HON'BLE MR JUSTICE D. APPA RAO

W.P.No.10004 of 2006

ORDER:

Petitioners question the action of the respondents in widening the road by demolishing their buildings bearing D.No.7-2-37/1, D.No.7-2-37/2, D.No.7-2-36, D.No.7-2-37, D.No.7-2-34, D.No.7-2-38/2, D.No.7-2-38/12, D.No.7-2-38/8, Nageswara Rao Street, Kakinada, East Godavari District, without issuing any notice under the provisions of Sections 146 and 147 of the Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Act, 1955(for short 'the Act') and without paying any compensation under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, as illegal and arbitrary.

2. With the consent of both the parties, the matter is taken up for final disposal.

3. Heard the learned counsel for the petitioners as well as the learned Standing counsel appearing for the respondents.

4. It is the case of the petitioners that the they are the absolute owners and possessors of the buildings bearing D.No.7-2-37/1, D.No.7-2-37/2, D.No.7-2-36, D.No.7-2-37, D.No.7-2-34, D.No.7-2-38/2, D.No.7-2-38/12, D.No.7-2-38/8, Nageswara Rao Street, Kakinada, East Godavari District.

5. The learned counsel for the petitioners further submits that the respondents, without issuing any notice and without initiating any proceedings and without paying any compensation, trying to demolish the buildings for widening of road. The learned counsel for the petitioners further submits that the action of the respondents without following due procedure prescribed under law and without paying any compensation either by way of private negotiations or by way of initiating proceedings under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, is utter violation of the principles of natural justice as well as Section 146 or 147 of the Act.

6. Admittedly, this Court in a some what similar case in W.P.No.8771 of 2006, by order dated 26-04-2006, directed the Municipal Corporation, Kakinada not to demolish the structures of the building or take away any portion of the properties of the petitioners, without following due process of law either under Sections 146 and 147 of the Act or by private negotiations or by initiating the proceedings under the Land Acquisition Act.

7. While considering this contention, this Court opined that the road widening is in the public interest. But, while laying the road, if any property of private individual is coming in the way, it is for the respondents to acquire the same either by way of initiating Land Acquisition proceedings or by following due process of law.

8. Undoubtedly, the Municipal Corporation has to issue notice before acquiring the buildings or properties belonging to the petitioners for widening the road. The very decision applies on all fours to the case on hand.

9. Considering the above circumstances, the writ petition is disposed of directing the respondents not to demolish the structures or take away any portion of the properties of the petitioners without following due process of law either under Sections 146 or 147 of the Act or by private negotiations or by initiating the proceedings under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894. No costs.

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(D. APPA RAO, J)

Date: 23rd May 2006.

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